(These are exclusive of the Floating Dispensary opened in Kuttanad for 2 months, and eleven malaria dispensaries opened in 1120.)

(b) Yes.

(c) (1) There is a scheme whereby Medical Practitioners who establish themselves in rural areas are given grants;

(2) New dispensaries at the rate of two or three are to be opened every year in areas where there are none at present; and

(3) Bi-weekly dispensaries are also opened where there are conveniences to do so.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Have the Government any statistics as regards the villages which have proper medical aid and as regards those which have not?

DR. S. JOHN: Yes. In the whole of Travancore except perhaps in a few places there are no places where we have not got either dispensaries or grant-in-aid Vaidyasalas. Where there are no Government institutions there are the Mission Hospitals. Where there are no dispensaries, there are grant-in-aid Vaidyasalas to deal with the patients. There should not be any overlapping. Except for a few places in the hilly regions where temporary medical aid is made available there are no places where medical aid is not available in Travancore.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: My question is whether Government have any statistics in respect of the matter and how many years it will take as per the scheme stated in the answer for medical aid being completed in the State. That is the elucidation that I want.

DR. S. JOHN: I cannot say that now.

MR. P. O THOMAS: May I know the additions made to the Alwaye Hospital in respect of staff and equipment in 1121?

DR. S. JOHN: The Alwaye Hospital was raised to a major hospital. There is an R. M. O., one or two Assistants and a Medical Unit. A pay ward is being constructed. Additional wards will be constructed shortly. As we get new hands next year, I think we will be able to appoint more doctors.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know the actual additions made in 1121?

DR. S. JOHN: Three doctors, one mid-wife and two nurses were appointed.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: Am I to take it that three doctors were appointed in 1121 in addition to the doctors already existing?

DR. S. JOHN: I should think so.

Opening of a dispensary at Erumeli.

256. ***MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have received any representation for the opening of a dispensary at Erumeli;

(b) the date of the receipt of the same;

(c) whether any enquiry was conducted based on that; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken on the same?

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DR. S. JOHN: *(a)* Yes.

(b) 27th September 1945.

(c) & *(d)* Government have decided that the above question will be taken up after the new dispensaries for which Government have already accorded sanction are opened.

MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR: May I know the number of dispensaries for which Government have already given sanction.

DR. S. JOHN: 10 to 11 dispensaries are sanctioned.

MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR: May I know the approximate time by which these dispensaries will be opened?

DR. S. JOHN: That will depend upon the public. If they put up the buildings and supply the furniture and of course, if I get hands, I will be able to recommend for their appointment.

MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR: May I know whether in case the public of the locality are prepared to put up the buildings and give site, the dispensary in question will be opened shortly?

DR. S. JOHN: I cannot guarantee that.

Orphanages in the State.

257. *MR. P. O. THOMAS: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the number of orphanages in the State which receive grants from the Government in 1121;

(b) the number of orphans in such institutions;

(c) the average grant per head given by Government in 1121; and

(d) the average grant per head given in 1122?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI (*Director of Public Instruction*): *(a)* 12.

(b) 556.

(c) Rs. 6-15-1.

(d) Rs. 5-19-13.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know from the member whether he is aware that the cost of living has increased at least four-fold between the period 1112 and 1121?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: Yes, the cost of living has increased.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know whether Government have cared to increase the grant proportionate to the increase in the cost of living?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: A slight increase has been made,

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know from the member the actual increase made per head?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: It is the difference between (c) & (d).

MR. P. O. THOMAS: It is 15 annas per individual per year. Is it the increase, Sir?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: I should think so.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know whether Government feel that this increase is highly inadequate in view to the high increase in the cost of living?

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